be so framed by the Board that there will be no arbitrariness. I have only to point out that these rules and regulations are to be laid before the House and, therefore, there will be a Parliamentary check. The powers are to be given to the Board, which would be the highest authority under this Bill. But, such powers will be regulated. Because of this the rules and regulations are to be placed before the House for approval. Since this Bill is a laudable one I would request that the Bill may be passed by the entire House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Board for payment of equity capital or any other financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies attempting development and commercial application of indigenous technology or adapting imported technology to wider domestic applications and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now we shall take up clause-by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: I Move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now the Question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Reserach and Development Cess Act, 1986, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं यह कह रहा था कि हमारा जो कंप्रीहेंशन है आनरेबल मिनिस्टर यह है, उस पर आपने ज्यादा जोर नहीं दिया कि हमें जो अपनी टैक्नोलोजी है उसके डिवैलपमेंट पर ज्यादा जोर देना चाहिए, बजाय इसके कि हम इंपोर्ट करें इसको आपने बड़े कमजोर शब्दों में कहा है। इसलिए आप यह एशोरेंस दीजिए कि हम अपने स्वयं की टैक्नोलोजी को डिवैलप करने में ज्यादा फंड खर्च करेंगे और ज्यादा ताकत लगायेंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): संघ प्रिय जी, आप हिन्दी में जितना बल दिए हैं वह अंग्रेजी में वैसा ही फोर्स दें। लेकिन थोड़ा कम हो गया है।

Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
Flooding of Gasitand Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited on 26th/27th September, 1995

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: (Uttar Pradesh): The House should be adjourned now.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): एक स्टेटमेंट है, जगदीश टाइटलर जी हैं, वह भी इस दफ्तर के नए मंत्री हैं। नए मंत्री का बिल अपने पास कर दिया, पुराने मंत्री के नए दफ्तर का स्टेटमेंट तो आप सुन लें...(व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I will give clarifications tomorrow .....*(Interruptions)*....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): यह महत्वपूर्ण है....(**व्यवधान**) कोयले खदान का मामला है। स्टेटमेंट मंत्री जी यहां आज ही रख दें और क्लैरीफिकेशंस आप फिर बाद में जब जी चाहें ले सकते हैं। श्री जगदीश टाइटलर।

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, due to heavy rains of the order of over 300 mm from the afternoon of 26th September, 1995 to around midnight (against a maximum of 128 mm recorded in a single day in the last 10 years) the water level of Katri River in Dhanbad District overflowed the three embankments which had been constructed for protection of Gaslitand underground mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Due to sudden and large inrush of water, the underground mine got flooded in a very short time thereby trapping 64 workers inside the mine. As the rains were very heavy and unprecedented, the life in the entire Jharia-Dhanbad area had got dislocated and due to floods breaches had occurred at many places.

A number of other mines of BCCL were also flooded claiming 77 lives in four mines including 64 of those got trapped inside the Gaslitand mine.

To render all help, senior officials of BCCL, Coal India Limited (CIL) and other subsidiaries of CIL and Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS) reached the site as fast as possible depending on the distances involved. All material help was also made available. BCCL mobilised men and materials immediately for starting pumping out of water District adminisatration also rendered necessary help in maintaining law and order in and around the mine area.

On 28.9.1995 (forenoon), I along with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, visited the site and saw that the river had breached its banks and heavy inflow of water was rushing into the mine. After meeting the bereaved families, local leaders, trade union leaders etc., I declared additional ex-gratia payment of Rs. 75,000 to the next of kin of the deceased. Besides, one job per family of the unfortunate workers who lost their lives has also been offered. The coal company has taken the necessary relief and rehabilitation measures for the families of the victims.

When the mine got flooded, the water level in No. 6 pit of Gaslitand mine had risen to 185 metres (RL). The level of water in this pit has come down to 96.90 metres (RL) as on 28 November, 1995.

Pumping operations at gaslitand had commenced on 28th September, 1995. Since high head submersible pumps were not available in the country, Coal India Limited (CIL) had immediately approached other countries for locating ready availability of such pumps. In all 20 high head pumps, 12 from Ukraine and 8 from China have already arrived at the site. Twelve of these pumps have since been installed and commissioned. Presently water is being pumped out of the mines at the rate of about 36 million gallons per day. With the commissioning of all the imported pumps, daily pumping rate would increase to about 50 million gallons and would help in speedier dewatering of the mine.

Under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, the Ministry of Labour have constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Justice S.K. Mukherji, Retd. Judge of the Patna High Court, assisted by two assessors, one from technical side and the other from trade union side to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accidents involving 75 human lives in the four collieries of BCCL namely, Gaslitand, Bera, Choitudih and South Govindpur.

On the basis of preliminary inquiry conducted immediately after the accident by the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of CIL, four officials and four workmen of Gaslitand colliery have been placed under suspension.

While placing these facts before the House, I would like to assure the hon. Members that appropriate action would be taken against all those held responsible for this accident by the Court of Inquiry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Should we take up the five names today or tomorrow?

HON. MEMBERS: Tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI MD. SALIM): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjoured at eighteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wendesday, the 29th November, 1995.